

LAMAR SMITH
21ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

JOHN W. LAMPMANN
CHIEF OF STAFF

2231 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4321
(202) 225-4236
FAX: (202) 225-8628
<http://lamarsmith.house.gov>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,
THE INTERNET AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CLAIMS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY, SCIENCE
AND RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND
BORDER SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND
COUNTERTERRORISM

Letters to the Editor
The Wall Street Journal
200 Liberty Street
New York, N.Y. 10281

January 27, 2004

To the Editor:

In a recent editorial (Our Border Brigades, January 27) that mentions my name, you write: "... the U.S. has never really tried to 'control its borders.' One question: Then what is it we've been doing for nearly 20 years now?"

The answer is: the federal government has not been enforcing our immigration laws. So it is no wonder that illegal immigration has increased.

Illegal aliens know that once they get past the border, most are unlikely ever to be deported. The loud message broadcast to the world is: Get in illegally and we'll make it easy for you to stay.

The federal government allows employers to hire illegal aliens, prohibits government agencies from sharing information about the illegal status of immigrants, and provides government benefits at taxpayer expense to illegal aliens.

The dramatic growth in illegal immigration should come as no surprise to anyone. Even though the majority of the American people want to enforce our immigration laws, the federal government has consistently failed to do so.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☐ 1100 N.E. LOOP 410
SUITE 640
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209
(210) 821-5024
FAX: (210) 821-5947

☐ 13333-A HIGHWAY 71 WEST
ROOM 100
AUSTIN, TX 78738
(512) 402-9743
FAX: (512) 402-9867

☐ 1006 JUNCTION HIGHWAY
KERRVILLE, TX 78028
(830) 895-1414
FAX: (830) 895-2091